

GREATER FRESNO AREA



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

December 15, 2005

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 "I" Street, 25th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Sunne Wright McPeak
Secretary, Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency
980 9th Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Secretaries Lloyd and McPeak:

We are writing to respectfully request that you include State Route 99 (Route 99) as a highest priority project in the Goods Movement Action Plan.

Upgrade of SR 99 to an Interstate has been a top priority for the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce as it is our mission to promote business and enhance the economic well being of the people of Fresno County. Not only is the corridor the economic lifeline of the San Joaquin Valley and an indispensable pathway in the efficient movement of agricultural goods in the western United States and the nation, it is also a major thoroughfare for the 98,000 commuters who travel on it daily (Caltrans AADT).

Economic development officials in the San Joaquin Valley have indicated that the lack of an interstate highway also hampers recruitment of large businesses. As one Fresno County supervisor explained, "many companies in the business of locating sites for clients have as one of their screening criteria access to an interstate highway. People looking to relocate won't give us a second look if we don't have access."

Although SR 99 is clearly central to the long-term economic development, security and growth of our region, only \$330 million has been earmarked for three projects, it is apparent that the needs of the Central Valley Corridor have not been adequately addressed.

We look to your leadership to address the GM Action Plan as it currently stands in an effort to bring about a more equitable allocation of funds to improve the transportation infrastructure for all regions of California

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Al Smith
CEO
Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce